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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7024

BILL NUMBER: HB 1004

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 4, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Various Election Law Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Richardson

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: *Uncontested Municipal Elections*- The bill provides that elections for municipal office that are uncontested may be held if the county election board (CEB) adopts a resolution by unanimous vote providing that certain statutes do not apply in the county.

Candidate Vacancy Caucus- The bill provides that if a caucus called to fill a candidate vacancy or a vacancy in certain local offices does not obtain a quorum, the applicable political party county chairman or state chairman is required to fill the vacancy.

Reference Correction- The bill corrects a reference to the terms of office of school board members to conform the law to the amendments made during the 2011 session that provide that all elected school board members are elected at a general election. (This provision's effective date is upon passage.)

Effective Date: Upon passage; January 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Uncontested Municipal Elections*- Adding an uncontested office to the ballot would increase the printing costs for ballots. However, in smaller municipalities the additional expenditure would likely be minimal. With respect to electronic voting systems (DREs), county election officials would be able to program in the uncontested office without additional expenditure.

However, in the case of a municipality not having any contested offices in an election, if the county election board adopted a resolution to include the uncontested offices, the CEB would essentially be requiring an election to take place. Holding a municipal election with a completely uncontested ballot would require expenditures for printing ballots (in optical scan counties), and other miscellaneous expenditures (see background information below). If the county were to hold the election for the municipality, the municipality would have to pay the county to run the election.

Background Information- Expenses to run an election include: precinct election board per diem, rental of a facility for polling (if necessary), and/or voting equipment (if necessary.)

The following table shows the precinct election officers in a precinct election board as provided by law. The table also includes the average pay per election by each office:

Type of Officer	Number	Average Pay Per Election*
Inspector	1	\$129
Judge	2	\$97
Poll Clerk**	2	\$94
Sheriff**	2	\$106
Asst. Poll Clerk**	2	\$94
*Based on a survey of all counties with 57 responding. **May be eliminated by resolution of entire county election board.		

Certain counties pay the judge of the party opposite of the inspector more than the judge of the inspector's party. The additional pay compensates extra duties of the opposite party judge, who accompanies the inspector to drop off the election ballots and canvases after the polls close to the county election board office.

Many counties are not able to fill every position and several do not have assistant poll clerks. Additionally, counties may by resolution of the entire election board, discontinue sheriff and poll clerk appointments. Very few counties in the survey had assistant poll clerks or sheriffs.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Municipalities, county election boards.

Information Sources: Counties responding to an LSA survey on precinct election officer compensation.

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